

What is claimed is:

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A
1. A software-bundle for navigating on a data network on behalf of a user  
by proxy, comprising:
- a browser application for navigating on the network;
  - a set of functional programs for performing tasks;
  - a set of APIs for integrating the functional programs to the browser
- 10 application; and
- a control application for spawning, managing and terminating an  
instance of the browser application and monitoring behavior of the browser  
instance during a navigation sequence, such that the software-bundle  
functions as a fully automated navigation system capable of performing all of
- 15 the functions of a manual navigation system controlled by a user having a  
data-input system for controlling the navigation system.
2. The software-bundle of claim 1 wherein the data network is the Internet  
network.
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3. The software-bundle of claim 2 wherein the browser application utilizes  
the APIs and functional programs during a navigation sequence according to  
a machine-readable set of instructions.
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4. The software-bundle of claim 3 wherein the set of machine-readable  
instructions is provided to the bundle by the control application.

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5. The software-bundle of claim 4 wherein the set of machine-readable instructions covers a single navigation sequence.

6. The software-bundle of claim 5 wherein the set of machine-readable instructions covers a series of navigation sequences.

7. The software-bundle of claim 6 wherein the bundle resides on a single processor and includes an instance of the control application.

8. The software-bundle of claim 3 wherein the set of machine-readable instructions is provided from an external source other than the control application.

9. The software-bundle of claim 6 wherein the software-bundle shares a control application with other like software-bundles executing on other processors.

10. A method for performing an automated navigation sequence on a data network comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a machine-readable set of instructions for initiating, running, and closing the navigation sequence;

(b) executing an instance of a browser application, the execution resulting from receipt of the machine-readable set of instructions;

(c) executing and completing a series of tasks during the navigation sequence according to the order of instruction contained in the machine-readable set of instructions; and

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(d) terminating the instance of browser application, the termination resulting from the completion of the machine-readable set of instructions by the instance of browser application.

5 11. The method of claim 10 wherein the data network is the Internet network.

12. The method of claim 11 wherein in step (a), the machine-readable set of instructions is provided by a software-control application.

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sub A 13. The method of claim 12 wherein in step (a), and navigation sequence monitored by the software-control application.

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14. The method of claim 13 wherein in step (b), the machine-readable set of instructions contains a first instruction for spawning an instance of the browser application.

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15. The method of claim 13 wherein in step (d), the machine-readable set of instructions contains a last instruction for closing an instance of the browser application.

16. The method of claim 13 wherein in step (b), the browser instance is spawned by the software-control application, and in step (d), the browser instance is terminated by the software-control application.

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